

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The medication-partnership program is a voice/text integrated web-based program which improves the compliance of a patient to take his/her medication regimen which has been prescribed by a physician. The program provides for interconnectivity between the patient, the physician, and a case manager to track the patient's report of compliance with medication and the therapeutic effects and side effects of the medicine. The case manager and physician receive periodic reports from the patient and can make appropriate clinical interventions based upon these reports. In addition, the program includes stage specific information regarding the medication.

At the onset of treatment, issues related to beginning treatment are addressed; later in treatment, key information about that stage of treatment is provided. The information is provided in a streaming media format, as well as text-based form.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The medication partnership program is a voice/text integrated web-based program which provides for easy to use frequent interaction between patient, physician, and the case manager. The system provides a mechanism for the physician and the case manager to observe more frequently the patient's progress in treatment including compliance, symptoms, and side effects. If necessary, the program will provide a flag to the physician to make a rapid clinical intervention.

When a physician is starting a patient on medication, the physician registers the patient into the program. If the patient is being treated in a managed care setting or a group practice/clinic setting, the registration could be done by a case manager. The case manager logs on to the website using his or her own ID and code and then types in the information about the patient which the program prompts. In order to protect the privacy of the patients and file security, the system allows the physicians, case managers, and patients to register and access the system through their own separate codes.

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Once registered, the patient will log on to the system periodically through Internet or telephone to report whether or not he has taken the medication, and report about symptoms and side effects. (See computer printout). The physician and case manager will review this information and make clinical interventions.

The system provides the patients with various means such as personal computers, phones, and PDA's to enter periodic responses. The system can also notify the patient by voice or text messaging. The system uses voice portals for all patients regardless of Internet access. Under this interactive voice system, the patient responds to the questions by dialing a local or a toll free number, entering ID and a password. The system is capable of speech and natural language recognition such as English or Spanish. An added feature of the automated interactive voice system is that the system can call the patient and initiate the questions in case the patient has not responded for a period of time. Through the interactive voice system, the patient can also leave a free formatted voice message for the physician or case manager.

The system provides for both synchronous and asynchronous communication between the patient and physician, the physician and case manager, and patient and case manager to discuss key issues related to treatment.

In addition to usual clinical practice, the system also serves as a tool for pharmaceutical research to monitor compliance and collect data concerning efficacy and side effects of a particular study medication regimen.

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